

VZCZCXYZ0012  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLG #0262 1301043  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 091043Z MAY 08  
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5233  
RUEBBEA/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC

UNCLAS LILONGWE 000262

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAIR MI](#)

SUBJECT: MALAWI: AIR ZIMBABWE PLANE AIR SAFETY INCIDENT IN LILONGWE

An Air Zimbabwe Aircraft was forced to abort take off at Kamuzu International Airport on May 8, 2008 when two birds, flying about the runway, were reportedly sucked into one of its engines as the plane was about to take off. The Boeing 767 aircraft was on its scheduled flight from Harare to London via Lilongwe. The pilot managed to abandon take-off, but eight tires burst and caught fire when the pilot applied the emergency brakes. The fire engine at the airport was able to put the fire out without further incident. No one was injured in the event, but the airline reported some minor damage to the affected engine.

SULLIVAN